

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

456B0829

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1015

Introduced by: Representatives Hassard and Koskan and Senators Staggers and Drake

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Congress to enact the "American
2 Land Sovereignty Protection Act."

3 WHEREAS, the United Nations has designated sixty-seven sites in the United States as
4 "world heritage sites" or "biosphere reserves," which altogether are approximately equal in size
5 to the State of Colorado, the eighth largest state; and

6 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution vests in the United
7 States Congress the power to dispose of and enact any rules or regulations governing any land
8 belonging to the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, many of the designations of the United Nations include private property and
10 contemplate "buffer zones" of adjacent land; and

11 WHEREAS, some international land designations, such as those under the United States
12 Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations
13 Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization, operate under independent national
14 committees, such as the United States National Man and Biosphere Committee, which have no
15 legislative directive or authorization from Congress; and

1 WHEREAS, these international designations are an open invitation to the international
2 community to interfere in domestic economies and land use decisions; and

3 WHEREAS, local citizens and public officials in most cases have very little input on whether
4 the land within the vicinity of their homes is included in these international land use programs;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the President and executive branch of the United States have, by executive
7 order and other agreements, implemented these designations without the approval of Congress;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, actions of the President of the United States in applying international
10 agreements to any land owned by the United States may circumvent Congress; and

11 WHEREAS, Congressman Don Young and co-sponsor Congressman John Thune have
12 introduced House Resolution No. 901 in the 105th Congress entitled the "American Land
13 Sovereignty Protection Act," which requires the explicit approval of Congress to designate any
14 land owned by the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act" was adopted by the United
16 States House of Representatives on October 8, 1997, and subsequently referred to the Senate
17 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Parks, Preservation, and
18 Recreation:

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
20 third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the State of
21 South Dakota urges the passage of the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act," reaffirming
22 the constitutional authority of Congress to enact any rules or regulations governing any land
23 belonging to the United States; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President
25 of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority

- 1 Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and to each
- 2 member of the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.